WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1   1.   A device-initiated image processing transaction
2 method, comprising the steps of:
3   capturing an image by at least one imaging
4 appliance; and
5   initiating by said at least one imaging appliance
6 a transaction session with an image processing service
7 provider coupled to said at least one imaging appliance via
8 a network for effectuating one of an image push operation
9 whereby said image is transmitted to said image processing
10 service provider for processing in a select manner by a host
11 processing engine co-located thereat and a pull operation
12 whereby said host processing engine is downloaded for locally
13 processing said image in said select manner.

1   2.   The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said at
2 least one imaging appliance is selected from the group
3 consisting of a digital camera, a scanner, a hand-held
4 Optical Character Recognition (OCR) reader, a camcorder, and
5 a device using a predetermined portion of the electro-
6 magnetic spectrum for image capture.

1   3.   The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said
2 host processing engine comprises an image compression
3 algorithm.

1   4.   The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said
2 host processing engine comprises an image decompression
3 algorithm.

1   5.   The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said
2 host processing engine comprises an image formatting
3 algorithm.

1   6.   The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said
2 host processing engine comprises an image translation
3 algorithm.

1   7.   The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said
2 host processing engine comprises an image transformation
3 algorithm.

8. The method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising the step of generating a transformed image by said image processing service provider after processing said image in said select manner.

9. The method as set forth in claim 8, further comprising the step of transmitting said transformed image directly to a third-party node disposed on said network.

10. The method as set forth in claim 9, wherein said step of transmitting said transformed image is effectuated via broadband transmission.

11. The method as set forth in claim 8, further comprising the step of retrieving said transformed image by said at least one imaging appliance.

12. The method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising the step of generating a transformed image by said at least one imaging appliance after processing said image in said select manner by using said host processing engine downloaded from said image processing service provider.

13. The method as set forth in claim 12, further comprising the step of transmitting said transformed image to a third-party node disposed on said network.

14. The method as set forth in claim 13, wherein said step of transmitting said transformed image is effectuated via broadband transmission.

1   15. A device-initiated image processing transaction
2   system, comprising:
3   means for capturing an image by at least one
4   imaging appliance;
5   means for initiating by said at least one imaging
6   appliance a transaction session with an image processing
7   service provider coupled to said at least one imaging
8   appliance via a network; and
9   means for effectuating one of an image push
10   operation whereby said image is transmitted to said image
11   processing service provider for processing in a select manner
12   by a host processing engine co-located thereat and a pull
13   operation whereby said host processing engine is downloaded
14   for locally processing said image in said select manner.

16. The system as set forth in claim 15, further comprising means for determining whether said at least one imaging appliance includes a local processing engine capable of processing said image in said select manner.

17. The system as set forth in claim 15, wherein said at least one imaging appliance is selected from the group consisting of a digital camera, a scanner, a hand-held Optical Character Recognition (OCR) reader, a camcorder, and a device using a predetermined portion of the electro-magnetic spectrum for image capture.

18. The system as set forth in claim 15, wherein said host processing engine comprises at least one of an image compression algorithm, an image decompression algorithm, an image translation algorithm, an image transformation algorithm and an image formatting algorithm.

1   19. A computer-readable medium operable with an imaging
2 appliance disposed in a network, said computer-readable
3 medium carrying a sequence of instructions which, when
4 executed by a processing subsystem associated with said
5 imaging appliance, causes the following steps to be
6 performed:

7   if said imaging appliance does not include a local
8 processing engine capable of processing an image captured by
9 said imaging appliance in a select manner, initiating by said
10 imaging appliance a transaction session with an image
11 processing service provider coupled to said at least one
12 imaging appliance via said network; and

13   effectuating one of an image push operation whereby
14 said image is transmitted to said image processing service
15 provider for processing in said select manner by a host
16 processing engine co-located thereat and a pull operation
17 whereby said host processing engine is downloaded for locally
18 processing said image by said imaging appliance in said
19 select manner.

20. The computer-readable medium as set forth in claim 19, wherein said at least one imaging appliance is selected from the group consisting of a digital camera, a scanner, a hand-held Optical Character Recognition (OCR) reader, a camcorder, and a device using a predetermined portion of the electro-magnetic spectrum for image capture.

21. The computer-readable medium as set forth in claim 19, wherein said host processing engine comprises at least one of an image compression algorithm, an image decompression algorithm, an image translation algorithm, an image transformation algorithm and an image formatting algorithm.

22. The computer-readable medium as set forth in claim 19, further including an additional sequence of instructions executable on said processing system for performing the step of generating a transformed image by said at least one imaging appliance afer processing said image in said select manner by using said host processing engine downloaded from said image processing service provider.

1   23.   The computer-readable medium as set forth in claim
2 22, further including an additional sequence of instructions
3 executable on said processing system for performing the step
4 of transmitting said transformed image to a third-party node
5 disposed on said network.

1   24.   The computer-readable medium as set forth in claim
2 23, wherein said step of transmitting said transformed image
3 is effectuated via broadband transmission.